GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:378
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2002
CONSERVATION OF RARE MEDICINAL PLANTS
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE;V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of medicinal plants and herbs available in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of measures taken by the Government to protect them;

(c) whether any specific project has been launched for their conservation/propagation particularly in forest areas and if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(d) the details of endangered species of medicinal plants identified for the project;

(e) whether the Government are aware that some specific herbs are being smuggled out in large scale; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken to check the same and also to protect/conserve the rare herbs?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in the reply to parts (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.378 to be answered on 16.12.2002 on Conservation of Rare Medicinal Plants

(a) As per report of the Task Force on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Medicinal Plants, Planning Commission, Government of India, there are 8000 species of medicinal plants in the country which account for around 50% of all higher flowering plant species of India. These plants are distributed in various parts of the country.

(b)&(c) Government of India has set up a national level body, namely, `Medicinal Plants Board` under the Chairmanship of Minister of Health & Family Welfare as per Resolution published in Gazette of India:Extraordinary, dated 24.11.2000. One of the areas of its activity is conservation and propagation of medicinal plants. The Board has sanctioned 76 projects in reserved forests on conservation, cultivation and propagation during 2001-2002 in 22 different States.

Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore is implementing two externally aided projects from UNDF and DANIDA for conservation of wild genetic resource of medicinal plants through establishment of 54 in-situ Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas (MPCAs) of approximate 200 ha. size each.These MPCAs are located in the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.These MPCAs are located in reserve forest areas as well as in the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

(d) As per the information available, 29 species of medicinal plants have so far been identified and notified by DGFT, Ministry of Commerce, New Delhi.Export of these 29 plants, plant portions and their derivatives and extracts as such obtained from the wild except the formulations made therefrom is prohibited as these species required protection against over-exploitation. Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT) has also done assessment ofthreat status of medicinal plants in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu for 100 species and classified them as per the IUCN standard into various categories such as critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable, near threatened and of least concern.

(e) No such complaint has been received.

(f) Does not arise.